

Ephraim Rich House  
Pump Log Point  
Truro  
Barnstable County  
Massachusetts

HABS No. MA-717

HABS  
MASS.  
1-TRU,  
38-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

EPHRAIM RICH HOUSE

HABS No. MA-717

Location:: Pump Log Point, at the end of Ryder Beach Road.  
Truro.  
Barnstable County.  
Massachusetts.

Present Owner: Mr. and Mrs. James Moynahan.  
12 Rockledge Road.  
Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02161.

Present Occupant: Mr. and Mrs. James Moyahan.

Present Use: Summer residence.

Significance: This is a Cape Cod "double house", 5 bay exterior, located within the proposed Cape Cod National Seashore. It is typical of the type built on Cape Cod in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Original and subsequent owners Mr. Silas Clark, Wellfleet Attorney, who has made a study of some of the Titles in this area, reports that Ephraim Rich, Jr. received the property from the heirs of Ephraim Rich, March 21, 1830. Eph. Rich Jr. sold to Roxanne Paine 1834, and Asa C. Paine, her husband conveyed to Betsy Myrick. She conveyed to John Myrick and his heirs conveyed to present owner.

Mr. Moynahan's information is that the house was built for Ephraim Rich by Zaccheus Rich. He said he bought the property from Rosalyn Freeman in 1947. John Myrick left house to Warren Freeman, according to the present owner.

Date of erection About 1830.

Architect Unknown.

Builder Verbal tradition shows Zaccheus Rich as builder.

Original plans None known to exist.

Alterations and additions Interior has been altered, and 1 1/2 story ell was added to house at indeterminable dates. Ditto, northwest room.

Historical events connected with structure None discovered to date. The Rich family however was very influential on this part of the Cape in the early days of its development.

Important old views None.

Sources of information Present owner; Silas Clark, Attorney, Wellfleet.

Likely sources not yet investigated The Truro Town Records and the Barnstable County Records could be checked to determine more information regarding date of erection. The records at Barnstable however are incomplete prior to 1827 because of a court-house fire.

Prepared by

Charles S. Dotts  
Charles S. Dotts, Architect  
HABS Cape Cod Survey I  
August 22, 1960

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### GENERAL STATEMENT

Architectural interest and merit This is a one and a half story Cape Cod "double house", 5 bay front, located within the area of the proposed Cape Cod National Seashore. It is typical of this type of house built on the Cape during the early 19th century, and follows, in general, the earlier 13th century house.

Condition of fabric Fair. Owner however is in the process of restoring parts of the structure and preserving other parts.

### THE EXTERIOR

Overall dimensions 22'-6" north and south, 30'-0" east and west; north-east ell, 13'-5" x 20'-3"; n.west ell 10'-4" x 12'-2".

Foundations Brick.

Wall construction Horizontal plank sheathing on posts, heavy frame construction. Posts are about 6 x 6 inches. Exterior is covered with clapboards on the south front and with shingles on other sides. Clapboard exposed 3 1/4" and shingles exposed 5" to weather.

Porches, stoops None.

Chimneys Rebuilt chimney, brick, over center of house, but part above roof is missing. Rear ell has high narrow chimney, brick.

Openings - doorways and doors.

6 panel wood door with 4 light transom at front entrance and rear entrance.

windows and shutters Probably original wood sash double hung windows, with 9/6 light 6 1/2 x 8 1/2 first floor and gable ends of house, second floor.

Roof - shape, covering, construction Gabled, pitched roof with wooden shingles. Roof construction is of wood trusses, 3 1/2" x 6", with horizontal roofing boards 1" thick and random widths, 6 to 17". Trusses rest on top plates about 7 x 7 inches.

cornice - eaves Moulded wood box cornice, narrow eaves.

dormers - cupolas None.

## INTERIOR

Floor plans Like similar houses on Cape Cod, this 5 bay "double house" has a central door in the south or main front. It is flanked by two window rooms at the east and the west. The doorway leads into an entry with doors to the east and the west rooms. The rear of the entry is now a closet, although in some of the similar houses, this was the location of the stair to the second floor. There is no evidence of a stair having been placed there.

A small room with built in shelves, wood, is located at the rear of the east room, and this was probably a buttery. Next to this is a hall leading to an addition at the rear, east side. The stairs to the second floor lead off of this rear addition, although originally it is believed that the stair entrance was off of the east room. They are thus reversed from the original run. West of this hall is a small bed room, and next to it, and back of the west front room is a small room now used as a library. Another bed room is located in an ell at the west of the house.

The one and a half story ell at the rear is composed of one large room on the first floor, and one on the second floor, with stairs leading to it in the north west corner of the ell.

The second floor has been changed by the present owner

Stairways Wooden, narrow, short run.

Flooring Random width pine boards (11" to 12").

Wall and ceiling finish Plastered walls and ceilings, with wood wainscoting to window stool height in the east and west front rooms. Plastered walls and vertical boards elsewhere.

Doorways and doors 4 and 6 panel interior doors.

Trim Mitered molded trim around doors and windows; good fireplace wall paneling on west wall of east room and east wall of west room, front.

Hardware Some old type, e.g. cupboard hinges and catches; some modern.

Lighting Kerosene lamps.

Heating None. Fireplaces have been blocked.

## SITE

Orientation House faces southwest in cleared area among sand dunes and marsh grass. This is a lonely spot and this house with two or three others is "at the end of the road".

Enclosures None.

Outbuildings Small privy east of house.

Walks, driveways There is a four foot wide cobble stone walk on the south, east and west sides of the house. The driveway ends in a parking space in the front yard.

Landscaping Practically none. Very little lawn and shrubbery.

Prepared by

Charles S. Dotts  
Charles S. Dotts, Architect  
HABS Cape Cod Survey I  
August 22, 1960

References:

Measured Drawings, HABS Cape Cod Survey I, Summer 1960, Eastham Field Office.